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SJC's 54th Annual Little 500

By Ana Lara
News Writer



SJC's 2016 Little 500 winner Kyle Rayburn is awarded his trophy with his crew. Photo courtesy of Kyle Rayburn.

Saturday April 23rd, Saint Joseph's College hosted its 54th annual Little 500 go-kart race. Participating drivers included Adriana Lugosan '16, Logan James '17, Kyle Hodge '16, Kyle Rayburn '14, Alex McCormick '17, Alex Gelinas '17, Tyler Pyzdrowski '17, Aiden Osman '17, Samantha Smith '17, Antonia Thomas '17, Jennifer Kearney '17, Amanda Evans '19, Jacquelyn Fouts '16, and Nathanael Abney '18.

The drivers took to the track at 2:00 pm for an enthralling two

and half hour race. The drivers endured brutal, but healthy competition from their fellow peers. With spring in the air and the sun shining, students, faculty, and families all joined to cheer on the drivers, eat, and support the clubs that took part in the race.

SJC senior Lyndsey Mays told the Observer "I look forward to coming back for Little 500 and seeing all my friends after graduation."

As the race went on, Kyle Rayburn, race car number 48



Taking second place, Kyle Hodge poses for the camera with his pit crew. Photo courtesy of Kyle Hodge.

sped into first place, taking the win. This was Rayburn's fifth time competing in the Little 500 and his second time winning. Rayburn tells the Observer, "despite having raced before, this was by far the most challenging race. The conditions were completely different today and I blew two tires. Kyle Hodge gave me a run for my money."

When asked if he had any advice for future racers he said "It's all about being smooth and clean and making sure the kart stays clean." Antonia Thomas,

number 88 said "This is my second time racing, it was definitely better this time. My kart ran faster even though I had a mechanical problem. But it was more fun this time around and competitive in a good way."

This year's race included several mini-crashes, but that didn't stop these amazing drivers who relentlessly kept going despite their minor mishaps. This 54rd race was definitely one for the books.

This Year's Mr. & Ms. Puma Winners

By Kareema Smith
News Writer



Mr. Puma Patrick McElwain and Ms. Puma Jennie Weer after competing against participating contestants. Photo courtesy of Jennie Weer.

Senior Mass Communication majors Jennie Weer and Patrick McElwain were crowned this year's Ms. and Mr. Puma.

Ms. Puma was held on Wednesday April 20th and Mr. Puma was held on Thursday April 21st. Host Jason Levasseur returned for his fourth year and entertained the audience throughout the show. Ms. Puma this year had three contestants, Jennie Weer '16, AJ Volk '16, and Jennifer Munson '17. Mr. Puma had five men competing, Wesley Hutson '18, Patrick Flynn '17, Eric Davies '17, Jose Arteaga '17, and Patrick McElwain '16.

The first round of the competition included the contestants walking the stage in their best formal wear, making a good impression and introducing themselves before the main events. In the second round, the contestants performed their sport. McElwain simulated a wrestling match. Weer competed in Wii bowling. The contestants seemed to plan events that allowed for not only themselves, but the audience to enjoy.

For the final round, the contestant's talents were put on display. Weer for her talent took to the piano, and began a Beatles rendition that involved the songs "Here Comes the Sun," and "With a Little Help from my Friends." McElwain performed a standup comedy routine with jokes that mainly poked fun at himself. The talents of all the contestants were one of the most enjoyable parts of this year's show, making this year's competition difficult to judge.

Weer, who had never competed in anything like Ms. Puma, was "nervous about competing but, felt supported by the other contestants." On winning Ms. Weer said "I couldn't imagine ending my senior year any better, and I am happy to represent our wonderful school in this way, and I can't thank Saint Joseph's College enough." The contestants did an amazing and entertaining job this year and the show was a fun and enjoyable experience for all.

SJC Library Receives Grant for Workshops

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

The Saint Joseph's College Robinson Memorial Library recently signed a grant that aims to provide resources that will benefit the Saint Joseph's College Community. The grant is through the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana, or PALNI. The grant will be used to help fund a variety of workshops that will focus on providing information on how to use productivity and creativity tools, such as Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop.

PALNI is a consortium of libraries in Indiana including Saint Joseph's College and twenty-two other private college and university libraries. This grant was procured by Sandra McCullen, the director of grants and contracts at the College, and Tim Salm, the Library Director.

The workshops that the grant is funding will be held in the Robinson Memorial Library in conference room 113B. The workshops will run from June of 2016 through January of 2017. These workshops will focus on three different categories: active, blended, and self directed learning. They will be hands-on workshops that will allow attendees to practice skills as they go along. The workshops will



Above: PALNI logo. The Private Academic Library Network (PALNI) is a group of private Indiana libraries and universities that share materials. Saint Joseph's College is a member of this organization. They were awarded a grant that will provide workshops for students, faculty, and staff that will enhance skills necessary for the workforce and academia. The workshops will take place June 2016-January 2017. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

also be recorded, so the sessions can viewed at a later time in order to review the material learned at the original workshop. The workshops are also going to be self directed and offer digital badges. This means that those who participate will be assigned projects to complete outside of the workshops. As they finish each assignment, they will receive a reward, or the badge, as a sign of achievement. This way, those involved will have a chance to attempt newly learned skills themselves, and therefore, gain better insight as to how the programs work. Through self-directed discovery, the workshops will allow for a more personal and meaningful learning experience. Director Salm noted that, according to a survey, many professors have said that they

want as many of their students as possible to be involved with these workshops. The survey indicated that faculty believes that this will greatly benefit their students as these skills will help prepare them for life after graduation. Salm also noted that a lot of the material discussed in the workshops is directly applied to the workforce. Faculty and staff are highly encouraged to attend the workshops as well, as there will also be a lot they can gain from it. Overall, these workshops will be extremely helpful to all that come and can better prepare them for what lies ahead.

Pumas to Travel to India May 2016

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

One of the greatest opportunities that many college students take advantage of is international travel. This coming summer, a group of students from Saint Joseph's College will be traveling to India. Some will be traveling as part of Core 7, while others will be attending for the travel abroad experience itself.

Professor Susan Chattin organized and will be accompanying students on this trip. Pumas will depart on May 5th and return May 16th. This will be the tenth time that Chattin has travelled to India. Chattin says, "It's a wonderful, unique and challenging experience, but can be quite a culture shock. It is better to go over with someone who has been there before." There will be more to do than just sightseeing and meeting people. The students going on this trip are going to be getting credit for Core 7, and during the

trip they will be reading all the material usually read during the course. Professor Chattin hopes, "It's one thing to read a book, but to actually be in it, to talk to the people, gain appreciation for the culture, understand the challenges that they face, and understand the value of international travel. I hope they travel after they graduate Saint Joseph's College." Professor Chattin is most excited to see the Hindu Holy City of Varanasi. She said it's a microchasm of India, meaning it really exemplifies the importance of religion and the communal spirit.

India is the second most populous country in the world, yet the seventh largest. Pumas travelling to India will have the opportunity to experience the diverse population of this populous country. India is very diverse in terms of religious practices and languages. The country is comprised of a mixture of people practicing Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism,

Zoroastrianism, and Judaism. These are all religions that are touched on in Core; going to India will allow students to gain a firsthand understanding of these religions and their importance to the culture. Pumas will also be exposed to a variety of languages. The British Broadcasting Company states that, "The precise number of languages spoken in India is probably over 1,000, but it is often hard to define when one language begins and another ends." The diversity of India is something that students will get to experience up close; it will allow them to being fully immersed in this rich culture.

Professor Chattin hopes that the college will be doing more trips like this one in the future. She is working with some other faculty in the hopes to make a schedule of Core 7 and Core 8 international travel. Coming next year, the college hopes to plan a trip to Africa.

2016 Election Update:

Indiana Primary Puts Candidates at a Crossroads



By Jose Arteaga
Political Columnist

The 2016 presidential election can all come down to one state: Indiana. I know that it is hard to believe since Indiana's primary is so late in the election cycle, but it can be crucial for the Democrats and for the Republicans.

On Tuesday, April 26 there will be a number of primaries in the northeast. They include Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. The following Tuesday, May 3, Indiana will hold its primary elections. Indiana is crucial for a several reasons. Indiana is a Midwestern state. Like several Midwestern states, if candidates can win there, then they will do very well in the general election, especially if they win with huge margins.

For the Republicans Indiana is very crucial because Trump is leading on the GOP side; he needs Indiana if he wants to be the Republican nominee. Trump is around 300 delegates short of clinching the GOP nomination. Indiana is a winner takes all primary with 57 delegates at stake. Trump needs to win these as a backup in his pocket. If he loses, Indiana it will make it very hard on his chances when he goes to California. Trump

is not looking very good in California, and he might come 2nd with the delegates. Therefore, it is crucial to do well before California.

Ted Cruz has low expectations here in Indiana, especially since he is a Southern republican. John Kasich has a lot of potential in Indiana. He is a moderate Republican that can do well in the Midwest. He is also our neighbor, being the Governor of Ohio.

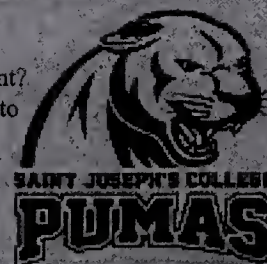
On the other side, the Indiana primary is very important for the Democrats as well. Clinton won the state back in 2008 against Obama. Clinton will have a very strong showing in the region (Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Newton Counties). Clinton also has strong support from many prominent Democratic politicians such as Evan Bayh and John Gregg. Sanders needs a strong showing in Indiana also. If Sanders wants to continue, he needs to do well. Sanders will need to hit the North and the Indianapolis area very strong. For the Democrats, this election can put Hillary Clinton over the edge in the delegate count.

Everything is on the line in the Indiana primary. This primary can make or break any candidate's campaign.

Upcoming Puma Events!

April 28 - Talent Show
April 30 - Color Run
May 1 - Academic Awards Ceremony
May 1 - Cram Jam
May 2-4 - Finals Week
May 7 - Commencement

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Kylie Hill at
khw10051@saintjoe.edu or
Casey Snow at
csnow@saintjoe.edu!



Unintentionally Involved For Life

By: Katie Davisson
Opinions Editor

Coming to Saint Joe’s, I never thought that I would be the person I am sitting here typing this, nor did I ever expect to be emotional or sad about the fact that I’ll be graduating in just under two weeks. However, here I sit, nostalgic and wanting more time. More time to sit in Halas with my best friends, more time to go on late night walks through the Grotto. More time to spend doing all the things I know will come to a halt two Saturdays from this moment.

As a high school student, I breezed through life. I don’t mean that it was easy, I wasn’t the best student-- I’m saying I was sleep walking. I did everything just enough to get by and that was good enough for me. But looking back on these last four years at Saint Joe... I’ve never felt more awake. My brother has this video recording of 18 year old me yelling at the top of my lungs “I will never go to Saint Joe!” Now, before you get all judgy and such, understand that I’ve been living in Rensselaer since I was 9 years old. That’s thirteen years of cornfields, the same pizza, and a Walmart that isn’t super nor 24/7. That’s thirteen years of driving 45 minutes to go shopping and pretending like going to the bowling alley is something fun and exciting to do. Thirteen years of the same faces recognizing that I’m Stephanie’s daughter, and Tod’s youngest... Thirteen years of being Terry and Ben’s little sister. At the time, of course that was only nine years, but I wasn’t ready to make that number any larger. I wanted to get as far away as I possibly could. However, being the breezy slacker high school student I was, I didn’t even fill out any of my college applications. I clearly wasn’t worried about the future, so my mom made the decision for me. Not to mention, the hefty sum of cash that was being floated my way was hard to say no to. And so, the story begins.

I didn’t give two hoots about freshman seminar and whether or not I was at any of the functions until one night when my best friend, who had come to Saint Joe with me, told me she’d met some cool people in her freshman seminar. I was baffled. Obviously I didn’t understand how she couldn’t think that class was a joke as well. And I thank God everyday for her seriousness about freshman seminar, because those friends she met would become some of the kindest, most understanding, biggest hearted people I have ever met.

I truly believe I felt unconcerned with floating through life without any ambition and drive because I’d never had someone come along and show me the vibrance of life. At Saint Joe, the people were so connected, so dedicated, and so genuine that I couldn’t help but reciprocate. Though I resisted as hard as I could, I began participating in school activities... I began going to events and being a part of clubs. I went to a football game (probably the only away one I’ve ever attended) and started amazing friendships. I was the star of the theater show, I participated in talent shows, I was published in the online literary magazine, and became the editor of a paper that has amazing writers. Through all these activities I met the people who will forever be a part of who I am and all the things I accomplish. I will fight tooth and nail to come back to every Homecoming and Little 500 that this school puts on, because I know that it’ll be a hard find to come across an environment that impacts me as much as Saint Joe has.

Out of all of this, I guess what I’m emphasizing the most is to wake up. Soak in those long nights of studying. Cherish the evenings where all you’re doing is sitting on a futon watching *Friends*. Appreciate the random interactions in the hallways and waiting in line at the hub. Acknowledge this amazing life that has been given to you and make the most of it. Because, I know it’s not the fact that Saint Joseph’s College exists that I’ve made these amazing friends, but merely because places like SJC give opportunities to become involved, so effortlessly that before you know it you’re stuck. Committed. A Puma for life. Unintentionally, involved. And you don’t regret a single moment of it.

Graduate Pressures

By: Juliana Pater
Opinions Writer

As I near the end of my college career, I get closer and closer to graduation. I am getting closer to the time when I get to start the “rest of my life”. I am no longer anchored to a place where I have to attend classes, I am no longer under the influence of my professors or peers and it is my time to decide where to go next. However, as I approach this milestone I’m becoming increasingly more anxious. I hear my parents voices ringing in my ear, “Have you found a job yet?” I can hear my professors telling me to get my resume together and get those letters of recommendations. I find myself scanning websites for hours looking for job openings. As I step closer and closer to this “real-world” life I’m becoming more and more nervous. I feel like my whole well-being is dependent on if I do or do not get hired.

Why do we put so much emphasis on getting a job right out of college, on immediately entering the 9-5 workforce? Did we really spend 16 years of our life in school, to spend the next 40 years at a job that we may not even enjoy? Why does society pressure young people to get a job, make money, and start their own lives right away? Now, I am not saying that we shouldn’t learn to be independent. What I am saying is that, my life won’t be ruined if I don’t get a job right away. I will be okay if I start a job that has nothing to do with what I studied in college, I don’t have to measure my success in whether or not I get hired. I measure my success through how I find happiness, whether that be at the 9-5 job, or working as a waitress. We put so much emphasis on finding that job that will make us “successful” we forget to focus on the things that really make us happy in life. So seniors, whether or not you have a job lined up for next year, rest easy knowing that true success is finding your true happiness. Live it up seniors, only a few more weeks to go!

Are Tourist Areas the Best to Visit?

By: Kertney Brozyna
Opinions Writer

My first time in the country of Mexico I visited Chihuahua. I lived in the city with a family and got to experience exactly what they did in their daily lives. I was very surprised to see that their culture was very similar to our own. Of course, the food was different (but wonderful), but they also had Wendy’s and Starbucks. So was it really that different? We saw women on the street with their children wearing the traditional dresses of that region. I saw the culture there, but I didn’t see the history behind everything.

Over the last weekend I went to Cancún, Mexico for my boyfriend’s friend’s wedding. I didn’t know if I would like it because it was such a tourist-y place. That is where everyone who is on Spring Break and has money to travel goes. I love the beach, the warmth, and the sunshine, so I knew I would enjoy that. It was the atmosphere I was worried about.

When I arrived at the airport, everything was in English. The security line was packed with Americans with the traditional tourist outfits—shorts, flip-flops, a straw sun hat, and the dreaded floral-print button up shirts. I groaned inwardly thinking about how these people are not even going to be experiencing Mexico. I went through security, got our rental car, and headed to our hotel. The road signs were in English. Another eye-roll. We started getting closer to the hotel and I saw the palm trees, the sand, and the unpacked beaches. I started feeling a little lighter.

The beaches were not packed, the meals were definitely Americanized, but they were great meals, and I saw more Mexican history than I ever saw in Chihuahua. We went to Tulum and saw the ruins of an old Mayan community. We also went to XCaret. XCaret is an ecotourism park with a river that runs through caves and a replica of a Mayan village. The Mayan village has real artisans at work as well. There is a real Mexican cemetery and a church you can go through.

There is also an equestrian show, a Mesoamerican ball game, an open theater with performances of pre-Hispanic dances, Papantla flying men and the Gran Tlachco (theater with a six thousand-person capacity) where the Mesoamerican ball game is represented, as well as the meeting of two worlds, the Mayan and the Spanish, and the presentation of several Mexican folklore dances. I learned more about Mexican history by visiting tourist-y spots than I did living in the city. I learned not to completely dismiss tourist areas for having a cultural impact on someone visiting.

The New York Primary

By: Steven Sewell
Opinions Writer

Sanders’ substantial loss in New York has put the Democratic nomination out of reach, barring a massive win in California or a Clinton indictment. From a progressive’s perspective, the future of American politics looks very bleak: either Clinton gets rocked in the general election by Cruz or Kasich, or a neo-liberal, self-described “moderate” posing as a progressive sits in the White House, flip-flopping over Citizens United and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Either way, the American people lose.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances, progressives can still impact the future of the country. Left-leaning individuals under the age of 45 overwhelmingly support the only progressive contender. Just like the rapid influx of minorities into the electorate (particularly Hispanics) has given a huge advantage to the left in recent elections, the influx of young, left-leaning, progressive voters will continue to push the American left away from the crooked neo-liberalism it represents today.

If you’re left-leaning or want real change from the left, don’t get discouraged by this Democratic primary. Get excited, because we’re witnessing a massive shift in American politics. If your state hasn’t voted yet, make sure you vote. It’s obvious Clinton is not a progressive candidate, and it’s obvious the Democratic Party does not represent the values of progressive Americans. Show the Democrats the progressive movement is only getting stronger, even in defeat. If you’re a die-hard progressive, and you don’t live in a swing state, be sure to throw your support in the general election behind a third party candidate such as Jill Stein. When alternative candidates start receiving air-time and get invited to debates, the American duopoly will begin to crumble.

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Flowers in the Attic

By Justice McGee

Features Writer

Are you one for older movies? Maybe in the drama genre? Movies based on books? *Flowers in the Attic* is all of the above. It's a film released in 1987 based on the book written by V.C. Andrews. It's about a mother who has just lost her husband due to a car accident and has to figure out how to support her four children, two sets of twins, as well as herself. Having no other choice, she decides she must return to her childhood home with her cruel mother and sickly father.

When they arrive at the home, miles away from civilization, the grandmother forces the children into an isolated room. They have two beds and a bathroom, an entrance to the attic is located on the far side of the room. In this room the children will remain, locked away, never able to leave. The only time the door opens, is when the grandmother brings them food. They rarely ever see their mother anymore.

You later find out that the grandmother has locked them away so their grandfather will not see them. Reasoning: the mother had married her uncle. To the grandmother, the children were an abomination. She forces her daughter to find a new man to marry. Throughout the movie you realize the children are becoming pale and sick, due to lack of

sunlight or something more sinister.

This movie can be found as a sad, drama film. Watching this movie will surely give you many different emotions. I felt anger at many different people in the movie, as well as sadness for the children and especially the youngest boy. I will say, throughout all of the misfortunes in this movie, the ending is quite likeable. Not all of the children leave, but three of the four do and that is just as sweet.

You should definitely watch this movie when you have some free time on your hands. It'll always leave you interested and on the edge of your seat, wondering what'll happen next (especially in the attempts-to-escape scenes.) I've probably watched this movie a couple of times over the years; it never gets old. As I said before, the ending is quite satisfying. In my opinion, the mother got what she deserved. Let's just say, she wasn't very good in the mothering department, having practically dug the graves for her kids herself. I believe your opinion will coincide with mine.

So the next time you are sitting at home or in your dorm and can't find anything to do, cook up some popcorn, hit up Netflix, and watch *Flowers in the Attic*!



Above: A poster for the 1987 release *Flowers in the Attic*. Photo courtesy of imdb.com.

Last Man Standing

By Vivian Myers

Features Writer

Last Man Standing is a TV show that plays on the idea that everyone in the household is female except for dad. Tim Allen plays the father in this ABC American sitcom. His character, Mike Baxter, is married and has three daughters. Nancy Travis plays his wife Vanessa. She portrays the loving and hard working mother and wife very well throughout the entire series.

Mike Baxter works at a sporting goods store called Outdoor Man. Along with helping the owner make crucial decisions about the store, he makes vlogs for the store's website. In the TV show these vlogs are always done near the end of the show and they always commercialize an item he's trying to sell. Mike Baxter talks in rhymes and riddles while portraying the moral of the episode. Then he proceeds to sell his item.

While Mike Baxter isn't at work, surrounded by men, he's home surrounded by women. His wife Vanessa is a stay at home mom with their three daughters until later on in the series when she decides to also go back to work because the girls are old enough. The oldest Baxter daughter is Kristin (Alexandra Krosney). Kristin is also the daughter that decided to make the biggest 'oops' any teenager can make. She got pregnant. And while this came as a shock and a huge disappointment to Mike

and Vanessa, they came to accept it and helped Kristin as much as they could after her boyfriend ran out on her.

The second oldest daughter is Mandy Baxter (Molly Ephraim). She's the beauty of the family, and she's also the ditz. She's very materialistic, and her parents fear she won't make it out of high school, let alone to college. Of course she's not as dumb as she seems. Mandy succeeds in the areas that fit well with her, and when she gets to college, she blossoms and does very well for herself. Her materialistic mindset helps her when she decides her dream is to be in fashion.

The last daughter is Eve Baxter (Kaitlyn Dever). Eve is

the closest thing Mike will ever have to having a son of his own. She is unmistakably the tomboy of the family. She plays soccer on the women's soccer team and eventually football on her high school's male football team. Eve also partakes in the junior ROTC and hopes to eventually be in the Army.

This is a great TV show for families. Yes it touches on topics such as teen pregnancy, but it teaches great lessons. If you're worried that your husband or father wouldn't enjoy this show because of the female:male ratio, think again. My father comes home after work and begs us to watch *Last Man Standing*.



Above: The cast of *Last Man Standing* starring left to right Alexandra Krosney, Molly Ephraim, Tim Allen, Nancy Travis, and Kaitlyn Dever. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Untitled Unmastered

By Cameron Adams

Features Writer

Kendrick Lamar no longer needs to have a title when he releases a new album.

The Compton MC has been considered by many to be one of the best artists in the hip hop game right now. *Untitled Unmastered* is a compilation album released on March 4th of this year. The album is made completely of unreleased demos that Lamar had recorded while working on *To Pimp a Butterfly*. It features the same mixture of free jazz, soul, and and blues samples that made *To Pimp A Butterfly* the success that debuted atop the Billboard 200. On it Lamar features Bilal, Anna Wise, Thundercat, Terrance Martin, Mani Strings, SZA, Jay Rock, Lance Skiiwalker, and many, many more. Each adding to the unique blend that is *Untitled Unmastered*.

This album is just as critical as *To Pimp A Butterfly*, in the aspect that Lamar uses his music as a platform to speak about politically charged, spiritual, and psychological things. To name a few, "Untitled 01" speaks on the coming of the prophesied "Last Days" spoken of in Revelation. "Untitled 02" speaks of the conflict of being Kendrick of Compton and Kendrick Lamar hip

hop superstar. "Untitled 05", some of which was actually featured in his 2016 Grammys performance, explores social inequality, power disparities and the effect that they have on the sense of normalcy of those that are ill-affected, which will only lead to increased violent behavior. These are just a few though. Each song on this album has a meaning to it that can and will be understood if one takes the time to try and understand it.

"Untitled 01", which is subtitled with the date 8.19.2014, features jazz instrumentation and smooth bass that really seems to allure the listener and draw them even deeper into the album to experience all Lamar has to offer on this mysterious album. The entire album features smooth jazz pieces that only add to the very distinct style that Lamar has become known for. He uses the unusual mixtures of soul, blues, funk, and free jazz along with the use of beats and mixes to create something great.

If you listen to this album you will find something for everyone. You will become entranced by it and maybe even become one of the many people who like him. So go onto Spotify, iTunes, or whatever to listen to and experience this great album.

Alternate Timelines

By Karen Gramajo
Features Writer

I love fiction, especially young adult fiction. I love it with a burning passion and I get excited whenever the topic is brought up. One book I suggest that will captivate your imagination is *Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel. It's the phenomenal tale of Matthew Cruse, a boy with a passion flying aboard the Aurora.

His adventures start with him being a fine cabin boy, swimming through the skies. His loyalties and love reside in his home, the airship. This was a time when the airplane wasn't even invented, only airships. Matt Cruse and his partner, Kate de Vries, become part of the search for "flying creatures". Little do they know, what they seek is trouble among pirates, and they must revive their fallen airship.

Nevertheless, the imagery, the suspense, and the wanderlust mesmerize readers. Kenneth Oppel writes such a lively storyline and brings life not only to *Airborn*, but also to *Skybreaker*, and *Starclimber*. It brightens up any dull day with swordfights, escapes, and suspense. Which brings me to another author who is similar.

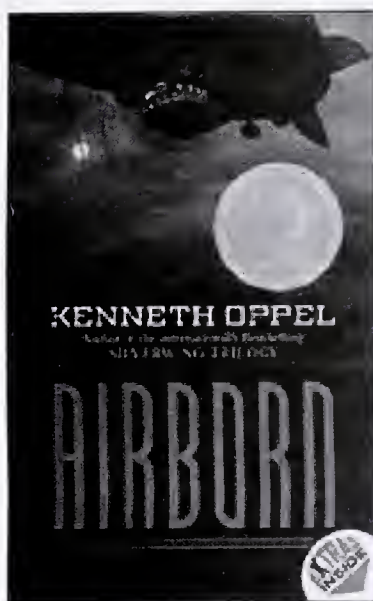
Scott Westerfeld is famous for his books called *Uglies*, but did you know he created a different alternate timeline? This shows that Darwinist and Clankers are

against each other in World War I. Let me go into deeper detail in that subject. The book is called *Leviathan* and it's the alternate historical timeline where the Central Powers (Clankers) are against the Entente Powers (Darwinists). Central Powers use their mechanical abilities. The Entente Powers uses fabricated animals. Their war from air and land is rich with imagery like Kenneth Oppel's *Airborn*.

In *Leviathan*, the main character is Aleksandar Ferdinand. He is a prince from Austria-Hungary and is on the run with his loyal subjects and Stormwalker. His people turned on him and his title is worthless. Deryn Sharp, is a common girl from London and is passionate to fly in the skies like her father (who died in a balloon accident). Deryn dresses up like a boy in order to join the British Air Service and changes her name to Dylan. Like Matt Cruse (whose father died in a flying accident), she works hard on being the best. The fates of Deryn Sharp and Alek Ferdinand entwined when both the Darwinists and Clankers must work together in order to survive World War I. The adventure continues in *Behemoth* and *Goliath*.

I tie these series together from both authors, because they work on young adult fiction and

revolve around steampunk. The alternate timelines where airships were used instead of airplanes, and large walking machines with fabricated beasts make you wonder how different the world would be. I love Kenneth Oppel and Scott Westerfeld because of their writing style they and the imagery presented. Their thinking intrigues me in wondering how they come up with such interesting storylines, which makes one wonder what would happen if there was a slight tweak in history. Come and read the adventures of these young characters and follow them through suspense, romance, and surprise!



Above: Cover of Kenneth Oppel's *Airborn*.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Weekend in Lafayette

By Christina O'Connell
Features Editor

Sometimes I get a little bottled up here on campus and want to have an adventure out. And if you're an English major nerd like me, then Lafayette, Indiana is the perfect weekend escape. With Spring rapidly blossoming and the sun shining, there's nothing like a forty minute ride to the heart of Purdue campus. For myself and some of the nerdiest English majors I know, the heart of Purdue is Von's, it's a little slice of heaven for us book worms. They have every kind of literature from the classics, to young adult, science fiction, and much more, for the right price. Once you go inside Von's, you will most likely want to browse the giant bookshelves at the entrance. They're fantastic of course and if you're like me you might even get distracted by the Slaughter-House Five shirts hanging on the wall or the Oscar Wilde and Charles Dickens action figures. However, the real fun begins when you go down to the basement of Von's. Mountains, seas, and piles upon piles of books overflow down here and will make you drool. You will never be able to catch every single book, with only two eyes, there are just too many. A lot of them are in wonderful condition, for being used and are fairly priced. When my friends and I take a Von's trip, we head straight down to the basement, because we know we will score everything that's been on our expansive reading lists.



Above: Von's Bookstore in West Lafayette
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Once you have quenched your book thirst, you'll probably be hungry. An small, excellent place to try is the Blue Nile. It serves delicious Mediterranean cuisine. I ordered the Blue Nile chicken shawarma and it is a divine chicken wrap that has the best sauce. I loved it and it hits the spot for anyone looking to get out of their comfort zone to try foreign food.

But if you're looking for desert, look no further than Mama Ines' Mexican Bakery, which is on Sagamore Parkway near Purdue. They have every Mexican delicacy for very affordable prices. My friends love their empanadas and get dozens of them in flavors such as apple, caramel, and pineapple. If you're ever craving a fun day off campus, head down and spend the day in Lafayette. You won't regret the new book discoveries, fine dining, and sweet treats that won't break the bank!

The Life of Pablo

By Justin Hays
Features Writer

Kanye West. One would be hard pressed to find a bigger name in the music industry today who that elicits such a wide range of reactions. He is loved for his musical prowess, his bravado, and his brash behavior. The erratic behavior that has characterized his public life has also brought him a large number of detractors. His public antics, such as the Taylor Swift incident, have caused many to hate the man behind the music. Personality aside, West is a superstar in the music industry for a reason. His lyricism and production skills have combined to make some of the biggest albums of the current era. Not only have his contemporaries emulated his musical styles, but he also has produced songs for many of the top artists around today. Kanye West's influence on both the hip-hop and pop is inarguable.

Combining his ultra-popularity and constant spotlight, Kanye created his own hype machine for his much-anticipated 2016 album. Never conventional, Kanye sparked the anxious anticipation for his newest work through

previewing mysterious songs at his fashion shows. The fashion shows were only the beginning of a drawn out release that can only be pulled off by Kanye himself. Kanye's twitter served as a record of the manic release – varying track lists, multiple title changes, and feuds with Wiz Khalifa. Finally, the world was given a Kanye album at where else, but Madison Square Garden. His supporters, family members, and collaborators were all invited to Madison Square Garden to celebrate the unveiling of the album, *The Life of Pablo*, and celebrate Kanye himself.

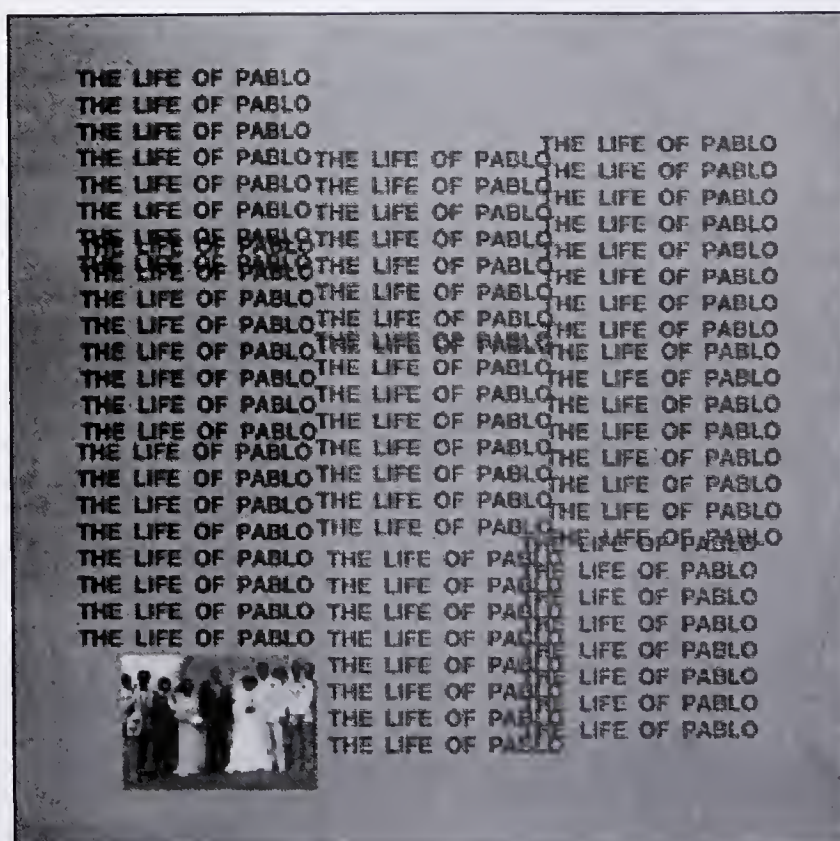
Through all the chaos, the music did not disappoint. Fans were rewarded for enduring the *Yeezy* roller coaster ride of artistic madness. *The Life of Pablo*, 19 tracks long, is a celebration. A celebration of family, of fame, and of Kanye living the life of Kanye. *The Life of Pablo* examines the multiple personalities of the man behind the music. The multiple sides of Kanye are juxtaposed: the family man who has responsibilities to his new marriage and two young children, the narcissistic superstar who

has no personal limits, and the complicated man from Chicago who is trying to make sense of the crazy life of a celebrity.

Kanye explored his multiple roles with masterful production, calculated lyricism, and seamless collaborations.

From the soulful introduction, "Ultralight Beam", to the forceful conclusion, "Fade", Kanye created an album that is the work of a man who has moved on from the turbulent past and is fully committed to the present moment of his life for all it is worth.

While this album isn't one you'll hear at the next pre-game session, that's okay. *The Life of Pablo* is above hip-hop. Kanye West made an album that the artists playing at your pre-game session only wish they could make.



Left: Album cover of Kanye West's *Life of Pablo*.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Puma T&F Competes at the Bellarmine Classic



*Pictured: Justin Hays and Brian Eurton
Photo Courtesy of Susie Hays*

By Brian Eurton

Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky – The men and women's track and field teams were in action at the Bellarmine Classic, which was hosted by Bellarmine University.

This was the last chance for the teams to hit their goal marks leading into the GLVC Conference meet in two weeks. The competition started Friday with the hammer throw for both genders. Junior Yohanes Lee posted a throw of 158' 6", which is a personal best 6' 6". Lee placed the highest for the men at 7th. The women's side was just as good with Sophomore Brooke Major having a personal best throw by almost 17 feet and

launching the hammer 113' 8".

When the meet resumed on Saturday the Pumas were excited to take on their competition and hit their goal marks to get them into the section they wanted for conference. This was apparent after the first race of the day when Justin Hays ran a 16 second personal best in the 5,000 meter run. Hays' time of 14:32.88 has him currently ranked 31st in the nation for Division II. Brian Eurton and Lane Barrett also had personal best performances posting 15:07.49 and 15:49.24, respectively.

This success continued with the women's steeplechase. The two Pumas that were participating in the even both had personal bests of over 20 seconds. Sydney Strang ran 11:26.71 to place 3rd. Maddie

Biddle's time was 12:22.61 to place 12th.

The sprint team put together a number of good performances. Most notable out of those performances were Alex Meier placing 3rd in the 400-meter hurdles and Sanjay Daley placing 2nd in the 100-meter dash. Meier is currently ranked 2nd in the conference and will be looking to win her first conference title this year. Daley is currently tied for 3rd in the conference and is looking to continue to improve his form to win another GLVC title.

Phillip Thompson continued his dominance in the triple jump, where he won the even by over two and a half feet.

Fellow teammates CJ Eikum and Tevin Riddle placed 5th and 6th respectively.

Heather Monk lead the women's throws on the second day of the meet with a 3rd place finish in shot put and a 5th place finish in discus. On the men's side of things Anthony Bradley and Jordan Phillips led the way. Bradley placed 5th in the discus, while Phillips placed 6th in the javelin. Phillip's throw was a personal best by almost 40 feet.

The Pumas have one more week to prepare for the biggest meet of the year: the Track and Field Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship, which takes place in Liberty, Missouri on May 6th and 7th.

Upcoming Events

April 29th

Softball vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament

April 30th

Softball vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament

Baseball at University of Southern Indiana
12:00pm & 3:00pm

May 1st

Softball vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament

Baseball at University of Southern Indiana
12:00pm & 3:00pm

May 6th

Men's and Women's Track & Field vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in Liberty, Mo.

May 7th

Men's and Women's Track & Field vs Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in Liberty, Mo.

Baseball vs University of Illinois Springfield
12:00pm & 3:00pm

Athlete Spotlight: Stephanie Drake



Stephanie Drake

By Hannah Wallace

Sports Writer

Stephanie Drake is a senior at Saint Joseph's College from Chesterton, IN. She is majoring in Forensic Biology. Drake is on the SJC Women's Golf team.

When and why did you start playing golf?

I started playing seriously at about 13 years old. My parents introduced me to it because they always played. I would go out with them when I was little and just swing the club around.

Who is your role model and why?

My parents are definitely my role models. They have been pushing me to be the best I can be and are always proud of me no matter if I shoot 98 or 80.

What made you want to come to Saint Joseph's?

I wanted to come to Saint Joe because of the close knit society that it entails. The forensics program is really great too but coach Badylak was a big influence because he made me feel like a good asset to the team and that we would be a family. He was right on the money with that one.

Have you achieved your goals for this season?

I had a few goals in mind for this year and one was to break 80. I unfortunately couldn't do that but I came pretty close a couple of times shooting 80.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include golfing in my free time and spending time with my friends and family.

Favorite song?

"Konstantine" by Something Corporate.

What is your favorite memory of this season?

My favorite memory of the season would definitely be our trip to Puerto Rico. I've never been there and it really helped our team grow together even more (if that was possible). It was such a beautiful place and we made some of the best memories there. Molly Flynn and I basically became sisters on that trip and I couldn't be happier to be so close with her.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation if everything goes according plan, I'm going to be joining the Air Force as an officer and specializing in Security Forces or Special Investigations.

Puma Tennis Suffers Losses

By Megan Fernandez
Sports Writer

The Men's and Women's tennis team said goodbye to their 2016 season after a hard loss this weekend. The Saint Joseph's College men's tennis team suffered an 8-1 loss to #19 UIndy (13-2; 5-0 GLVC) Friday afternoon. The Men's team took their only point with a win at No. 1 doubles from the duo of Reid Imel and Andrew Klump. The couple defeated the Greyhounds' Arklon Huertas del Pino and Andrea Morlet in a 9-7 battle to put SJC on the board. At the two doubles spot, Moritz Gisy and Valentin Meier fell 8-5 to UIndy's Christoph Drechsler and Magnus Miller, while Joe Comeford and Lucas Jessen lost 8-0 to Luke Hubert and Marco Razo at No. 3 doubles. Imel put up a fight at No. 1 singles, set versus Huertas del Pino before falling 6-0, 3-6 (10-6). Klump fell to Drechsler with a final score of 7-5, 6-3.

The Lady Puma's had a similar result with their battle against The University of Indianapolis Greyhounds. Friday, the girls team was defeated with a final score of 9-0. The No. 1 doubles duo of Tate Hickey and Mary Huffine fell to Greyhounds' Hanna Voikova and Florence Renard 8-2. The Puma pair of Clare Kost and Vanessa Olsen fell 8-0 at 2 doubles, while Lauren Jakubczyk and Brianna Szymczak

also lost 8-0. After Toni Franco fell at No. 6 singles, 6-0, 6-0, to UIndy's Dana Olsen, the rest of the singles were contested as pro sets.

Saturday's matchup with McKendree marked the finale of the Great Lakes Valley Conference for the Women's team. The team lost at home with the final score of 7-1. Lauren Jakubczyk earned the lone Puma point, taking a win at five singles. Jakubczyk bested the Bearcats' MacKenzie Jennings 6-1, 0-6, 6-1. At No. 2 singles, Tate Hickey forced a tiebreak in her match, but ultimately fell to McKendree's Janelle Fung 4-6, 6-2, (10-7). With the loss, the Pumas close out the season 3-11.

The men's tennis team continued their season into the GLVC Tournament with Saturday's matchup against the McKendree Bearcats. The team ended up suffering a loss of 7-2 at home, finishing their 2016 season. The Pumas earned their two points at No. 1 and No. 5 singles. In the one spot, Reid Imel defeated McKendree's Ben Muller in a hard-fought 7-6, 7-5 match. Valentin Meier pulled out the win for the Pumas at No. 5, taking a win 4-6, 7-5 (12-10). Andrew Klump fell at No. 3 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), and Moritz Gisy took a loss at No. 4 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. The Pumas finish the year 6-11, 2-4 in Great Lakes Valley Conference matches.



Pictured: Tate Hickey

Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Baseball Scores Victory



By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

Pictured: Garret O'Neill Photo Courtesy of SJC Athletics

Last weekend, Puma baseball went on the road to play the Lewis University Flyers in Illinois. The Pumas were able to split the series winning and losing to the Flyers two games apiece. After the series with Lewis, the Pumas were home during Little 500 weekend facing off against the McKendree University Bearcats. The Pumas started their engines right at the start of Game 1, winning against the Bearcats 13-0.

The Pumas took an early lead scoring 4 runs in the 3rd inning. Brenden Rivera had an RBI double followed by a 3-run triple by Riley Benner. The bats were still hot going in the 4th inning with the Pumas scoring 3 more runs.

The bats were burning by the 5th inning when the Pumas added 5 more runs. Josh Handzik had an RBI single to bring home Ryan Keck, who hit a single earlier that inning. Marty Napleton then hit an inside-the-ballpark grand slam when his fly ball sent the left fielder into the wall.

The Bearcats threatened the Pumas in the 6th inning with bases loaded. Puma pitcher Tasker Strobel was able to roll a ground ball for a double play to keep the Bearcats scoreless. Joe Kenney topped the game off with a RBI double in the 8th.

In Game 2, the Pumas' bats were not slowing down anytime soon scoring 8 runs on 11 hits. Benner got the line moving in the 1st inning with a RBI double after back-to-back singles from Rivera and Garrett O'Neill. SJC extended their lead the following inning scoring 5 runs.

Napleton walked to score a run and Rivera bombed a grand slam over the right-field fence. Keck gave the Pumas an insurance run to put them up 7-0 in the 4th. Rivera then hit another RBI in the 5th after walking with the bases loaded.

Quinn Snarskis threw a completed game holding the Bearcats to 5 hits and 10 strikeouts. Final score of Game 2: Pumas 8, Bearcats 0.

On Sunday for the second set of games, the Pumas did

not intend to slow down their winning streak. The Pumas came out strong early in Game 3 scoring 2 in the 2nd inning with Jeff Hightower and Joe Kenney with an RBI a piece.

However, McKendree scored one in the 4th inning to cut the Pumas lead 2-1. O'Neill hit an RBI single in the 5th to extend the Pumas lead 3-1. The Pumas pulled out the win in Game 3, beating the Bearcats 3-2.

In the final game of the day, the Pumas came out early when Handzik hit a double, giving them a 2-0 lead and that would continue until the 7th inning. The Bearcats answered back tying the game 2-2 in the top of the 7th.

Napleton went up to the plate and answered back with a solo homerun in the bottom of the 7th inning breaking the tie. The Pumas swept the Bearcats, and they took their victory lap around the field. SJC will be back on the road this weekend in Evansville, Indiana, facing off against the University of Southern Indiana.



Pictured: (Top) Morgan Akre and (Bottom) Ashley Whitaker
Photos Courtesy of SJC Athletics

Softball

By Makayla Copeland
Sports Writer

The last weekend for the Pumas ended with a split on both weekend games. The games were held at home, giving the Pumas a chance to gain support from spectators. After honoring the team's four seniors, the Pumas took on Quincy and Truman State University.

On Saturday, against Quincy, the Pumas won the first game 4-1 and lost the second 7-0. The Pumas scored early on in the game with hits for the Pumas coming from Bri Wagner, Zoe Anderson, Kā Davis, and Hayley

Miller.

In the second game Miller went 2 for 3 at the plate. Sunday, the Pumas played Truman State in the last contest in the GLVC Conference. The Pumas won the first game 5-4 in 9 innings with a walk off home run by Ashley Whitaker and Morgan Akre taking the win. The second game the Pumas lost 7-0. The lady Pumas finished out the season 12-22 in the GLVC AND 17-39 in the season.

the back page

Creative Corner

Editor's Note:

I have spent four wonderful years writing for The Observer. I began as an advice columnist my freshman year, then moved onto being co-editor to the Creative Corner my junior year. My senior year was spent placing stories, poems, and artwork on the back page of this paper. Thank you to all those who submitted their work and thank you to all those who read the paper.

Sincerely,
Gloria Michelle Leonard

13 Ways of Being with You
By Johna Bottorff

I
Feeling your arms around my waist
The smell of you and not your cologne
Feeling like there is just you and I in this world.
II
Looking into your eyes
Feeling like I am the only one you see
It's just you and me.
III
Feeling your lips on mine
Just like the first time we kissed
It was just you and me
IV
Seeing your smile
And seeing those dimples, talk about swoon
It was just you.
V
Looking at you doing nothing
Nothing but just lying there
It was just you.
VI
When I see you and you don't see me
You walk so calm and so cool
You walk without a care in the world
VII
Thinking of when I fell in love
I thought maybe it was the same for you
It was just me.
VIII
Feeling my heart break every time I looked at you
Seeing how you had not a care about anything
You acted like nothing happened.
IX
I looked at you everyday
I saw everything that could have been.
But it was only me thinking this way.
X
Remembering every drunk "I love you"
And thinking maybe it was for real.
But it was just me feeling that way.
XI
Remembering how soft your lips were,
Thinking about how you were the first, to ever feel mine.
Now the tears fall every day.
XII
For me it was just you.
You were all I saw
You were all I wanted.
It was only ever just you.
XII
I thought there was something
It was all just a joke to you
I guess the joke was on me.
It was only ever just me.

The Rest of Forever
By Katie Davisson

and we'll keep things casual for the rest of forever.
but I'll look at you and know your brothers' names, and how you got your scars, and the way you look right when you wake up, and how you can't sleep the same way for too long or your back will hurt, and the places on your body that you hated but I loved, and how your eyes look when you're sad.
and you'll look at me and remember my best friends' names and the way I used to talk about them, and how scared I am of not being enough, and the way I just wouldn't talk and you'd be ok with it, and how many shots it takes for me to open up.
and we'll both walk around and hold all of these stories inside of us with nothing to do with them and when we graduate I'll hug you, and wish you the best and I'll mean it.
I'll always mean it.
and we'll pretend we didn't change each other entirely.

Thirteen Ways of Skyping
By Ashley Brinkman

I
Download the app, sign up,
Never use it again.
II
Call your grandpa,
He doesn't understand how webcams work.
Decide phone calls are better.
III
Have a skype interview.
Wear your pajamas bottoms with your dress shirt.
IV
Mom skype calls you at 2 am
"What are you doing in bed? It's 8 o'clock here."
V
Open your laptop,
Go online,
Nobody wants to video chat with you.
VI
It is your first time being apart,
First time skyping one another.
It takes five minutes to stop crying
After you see his face again.
VII
Send your long distance boyfriend
Dirty three minute videos.
Hope the NSA doesn't find you repulsive.
VIII
Make funny faces into the webcam
While waiting for your professor to answer your call.
She picks up to you making whale noises.
IX
Doo do do whoo do
Doo do do whoo do
Doo do do whoo do
X
Stay up till 1 am for a skype call
With your boyfriend.
He is sleepy and cute.
Totally worth the sleep deprivation.
XI
The sound of a skype call is your favorite sound
The blue in the logo is the best blue you've seen in awhile
XII
Give a tour of the Joe
To your boyfriend
"Is this a prison yard?" He asks.
XIII
The Skype call ends.
Try not to cry.



Graduating Senior and Sarah Beetz



Graduating Senior and Ashley Brinkman

Deadlines
By Gloria Michelle Leonard

I failed an exam last week,
But I didn't care.
I turned in one page out of the required four,
And I didn't care.
Another 20 pages due next week,
And I still can't seem to care.
This is all temporary--
word counts, page numbers, exams.
But you? You are infinite--
Forever on my mind and in my heart.
You are the only deadline that matters.
I could write novels on what I feel for you,
Filling up page after page, exceeding page requirements.
The deadline is in ten days and I still haven't figured out
How to write these last few pages.



Graduating Senior Katie Davisson